

FATALITY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD 1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



AUG 1 6 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Vehicle Rollover Fatality

- 1. A recent vehicle rollover resulted in a Fort Hood Soldier losing her life. The dual military couple was returning to Fort Hood after taking leave with their newborn child. According to the preliminary investigation, the child became restless, distracting the driver who strayed from his lane and then overcorrected. The vehicle left the roadway, traveled into the median, and rolled off an embankment causing the passenger to be ejected from the vehicle. She died from her injuries a short time later. The husband and child sustained non-life threatening injuries.
- 2. Fort Hood has now experienced twelve fatal accidents resulting in thirteen fatalities this fiscal year (FY). This equals the total for all of FY10, with over a month remaining in the FY. All twelve accidents involved an automobile and/or a motorcycle. There are many distractors that can divert attention away from the roadway. Vehicle operators must be vigilant in maintaining constant situational awareness.
- 3. Leaders must ensure Soldiers utilize the Army Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) to best manage off-duty leave travel risks. Soldiers must share their plans with leadership to ensure they have the best, safest travel and rest plan. Leaders must sit down with their Soldiers to discuss off-duty plans, potential risks, and mitigations to identified risks.
- 4. We must be proactive on safety matters to end the trend of vehicle-related fatalities we have experienced over this summer. Leaders, Soldiers, and Family members who embrace safety 24-7 are critical components of protecting our Band of Brothers and Sisters. Safety remains one of our top priorities.

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Lieutenant General, USA

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